

The END

PAUL MELLETT 26 DEC 1996 (age 17)
(A level English – a script for a short film)

SC.1 – PITCH BLACK.

Slowly the sound of exploding shells fades in. It stops and after a pause a whistle is blown. This is followed by a ragged chorus of shouts, screams and battle cries. Rifle and machine gun fire starts.

SC.2 EXT. DAY – A BLUE SKY WITH A FEW CLOUDS.

The sound of gunfire and end explosions continues. In slow motion, a man dressed in the uniform of a first world war British soldier leaps through (or over) the shot. When he is gone, the sound of battle fades.

SC.3 EXT. DAY – INSIDE A DEEP SHELL HOLE.

Silence. Into the mud and the slime falls the soldier. He is a young man. Mid 20's. We see only his head, shoulders and arms, as he falls into the wall of the hole. Quite close up. His helmet falls off and out of sight. No sound at all.

There is blood dribbling from his eyes, ears, nose and mouth, although there are no visible wounds, suggesting something horrific elsewhere. He vomits into the mud, inches away from his face, and stares at it. Still absolutely no sound. He convulses, opens his eyes wide and, staring straight ahead, falls forwards, dead.

SC.4 INT. DAY – A MODERN HOSPITAL WARD.

A woman lies with her back to us, in a hospital bed surrounded by monitors and machines which bleep and click. She rolls over to face us, dragging with her the tubes that are stuffed into her nose and the veins in her hands. She is about 30, and is very pale and emaciated. She sighs deeply and shuts off her unblinking stare at the camera by closing her sunken eyes. She does not breath again and the bleeps of the monitors change to a single, continuous tone.

SC.5 EXT. DAY – A BLUE SKY WITH A FEW CLOUDS.

The camera slides down from the sky to reveal the man and the woman lying side by side on their backs, staring at the sky. All around is a rolling expanse of grassland. No sign of civilization. Almost an unnatural absolute nature. He still wears his uniform, she her hospital robe. She turns her head to look at him. He gasps suddenly, sucking in air, as if recovering from drowning, and fumbles across himself, searching for the hole in his stomach.

HER (Quietly, to herself)

Where am I? Who are you? Is this a dream? He snaps his head over to look at her, starts and bolts upright, backs away a little.

HIM (Breathless, bewildered)

What? Where..... He scans around, head jerking and chicken-like.

HIM

I don't understand.....I was..... Looks down at hi stomach. Holds it with his hands. He is clean and intact. They both stand up and look at each other, their surroundings and themselves.

HER

I think I must be dead, and this....this must be heaven..... or whatever.

HIM

I was shot. We were attacking and I was shot. I fell into..... then I.....

HER

Who were you attacking?

HIM (Puzzled)

What do you mean? The Germans.

She looks him up and down. Amazed.

HER
When?

HIM (Confused)
It seems like just a minute ago....

HER
No, I mean the date, what year.

HIM
August..... Nineteen Sixteen.

HER
That's impossible, that was.....

HIM
What?

HER
Eighty years ago.

HIM (Aggitated, confused)
This is ridiculous. What the hell is going on. I..... I should be dead.

HER
You are.

He looks down at himself again.

HIM
Okay, how did you die?

HER
I had a disease. The doctors told me I had three months. I lasted three and a half. So I guess this must be it.

HIM
It?

HER
The end.

He stares at her, unsure of everything.

SC.6 EXT. DAY – THE GRASSLANDS WITH THE SKY. TWO FIGURES.

They stand with their backs to each other, about ten metres apart, staring into the distance. He turns round, about to speak to her, when he sees that a rough block of stone, about a metre high, with a flat top, has appeared between them.

HIM *Look!*

She turns round and they both walk towards the stone, one either side of it.

HER

What is it?

They both look at the stone and see, on its flat top, the word *REMEMBER*.
He looks at her, over the stone. She looks at him.

HIM

I know you.

HER

I know.

SC.7 EXT. DAY – THE STONE.

They sit, side by side, with their backs to the stone. Time passes. He suddenly snaps into movement, leaps to his feet.

HIM (Shouts, screams)

GOD! (Exclamation) GOD? Are you there? Do something! Say something! Where are all the others? There were so many dying that day. Where is everyone? Silence DAMNATION!!!

In frustration he runs over to the stone and pushes it. It topples onto its side. She gets to her feet.

HER (Angry, not really at him)

Happy now?

HIM (Crying)

Where is everyone?

They both notice the underneath of the stone. In large black letters, it bears the words *YOU ARE EVERYONE*

SC.8 EXT. DAY – THE UPTURNED STONE.

They sit next to each other with their backs to the toppled stone. A repetition of the start of the previous scene, except that the stone is upturned. Time passes. Suddenly, they are confronted by images of themselves. Startled, they stand up, close together, and wait.

OTHER HER (Calmly)

You are everyone. Everyone that has ever been.

OTHER HIM

Everyone who ever will be.

HER

I don't...

OTHER HER

You are the souls. You are us.

OTHER HIM

You are the souls of humankind. One man....

OTHER HERone woman.

OTHER HIM

You have both lived billions of lives.....

OTHER HERand will live billions more.

HER

But.....why can't we remember any of them?

The other him and her are gone. They see nothing but the grass waving in the wind. They turn to each other and, without quite knowing why, embrace. As they hold each other, the weather changes. Thunder rings overhead and it begins to rain.

We see a camera shot of each of their faces as they speak the following lines.

HER (Joy)

I remember!

HIM

I remember!

They remember.

SC.9 EXT./INT. DAY/NIGHT – STUFF OF LIFE.

We see strobing, fleeting images of life and lives. Anything, everything it doesn't really matter; love, war, boredom, swimming, writing, cutting up cheese, fear, pain, bicycles, trees, laughter, music, paint, old shoes, hunting woolly mammoths. Intermingled with these images are the faces of him, and her, and other, different faces.

SC.10 EXT. DAY – GRASSLAND / HEAVEN.

They let go of each other and look into each other's eyes.
UNDERSTANDING.

HER

We'd better go.

HIM

Yeah. Places to go, people to be.

He smiles. So does she.

HER (Serious)

See you soon.

HIM

A lifetime's not that long.

They kiss each other, simply and briefly, then turn and walk in opposite directions. All this fades away.

VOICE OF ANYONE

All this fades away.

SC.11 INT. DAY – A BUSY TRAIN STATION.

We see him, struggling through the crowd. We see her too. They are moving towards each other. As they near, they look into each other's eyes, expressionless. They pass on by. As they walk away, backs to each other, they both smile, without knowing why.